

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 000571

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA;
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: IDF ARRESTS FIVE PALESTINIANS IN THE
WEST BANK, INCLUDING AN AL-AQSA MEMBER; IN GAZA, THE IDF
KILLS A 10 YR-OLD PALESTINIAN AND WOUNDS A 7 YR-OLD IN
RAFAH; JANUARY 31, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: Despite the absence of incursions or demolitions in the Gaza strip, the IDF accidentally shot and killed a 10 year-old girl and wounded another 7 year-old Palestinian child in Rafah January 31. As many as 32 Palestinians, including passersby, were injured in violent clashes that broke out between Hamas and Fatah supporters January 29 in al-Maghazi camp, one of the few areas won by Fatah during the election. In the West Bank, the IDF arrested five Palestinians, including one al-Aqsa Brigades member. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Death: Nil

-- Injury: Nil.

-- Clashes: Israeli and Palestinian demonstrators clashed with the IDF January 28 in the vicinity of Iskaka village, near the Israeli settlement of Ariel.

-- Curfew/Arrest: IDF soldiers January 29 imposed a curfew and conducted searches of Palestinian homes in the village of Seida east of Tulkarm. The IDF arrested a senior al-Aqsa Brigades member.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested the evening of January 29 four Palestinians in Hebron.

-- Arrests: The IDF January 30 arrested two Fatah activists in a refugee camp near Nablus.

-- Shooting: Unknown gunmen fired upon an IDF vehicle January 29 traveling in the vicinity of Hebron. There were no injuries reported from the incident.

-- Shootings: IDF soldiers January 30 came under gunfire in two separate incidents in Nablus. There were no injuries reported from the two incidents.

-- Prisoner Release: The IDF January 29 released from custody a senior Preventive Security Officer from Nablus arrested last week. Mohammad Dahlan had requested the PSO officer's release in advance of Dahlan's meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Mofaz.

3. (SBU) DEMOLITIONS:

-- The IDF January 31 announced plans to demolish approximately 74 buildings, including homes, constructed without permits in the Sur Baher neighborhood of East Jerusalem. The buildings are located within 500 meters of the separation fence.

4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Senior PA officials met with their Israeli counterparts the evening of January 29 to discuss the handing over of West Bank cities to Palestinian control. The parties discussed the handover of Ramallah, Tulkarm, Qalqiliya, and Jericho.

-- Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmud Abbas is scheduled to return to Ramallah February 2 following overseas visits to Jordan, Russia, and Turkey.

-- Prime Minister Abu Ala'a arrived January 29 in the Gaza Strip for meetings with PA officials and members of the various Palestinian factions. Palestinian press reports

speculated on possible cabinet appointments including Mohammad Dahlan as Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Nabil Amr as Minister of Information, and Nasir Yusif as Minister of Interior.

-- The Palestinian Legislative Council commenced deliberations January 29 over the amended general elections law, retirement law, and several other draft laws. These deliberations will continue until February 3.

Gaza

15. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: A 10 year-old Palestinian girl was killed by IDF fire in the southern Gaza Strip on January 31, according to Israeli media (see "injury").

-- Death: The IDF reported that one Palestinian suspect was killed on January 30 near Rafah (see "shooting").

-- Injury: According to Israeli media, a 7 year-old Palestinian girl was injured by IDF fire in Rafah January 31 (see "death").

--Injuries: UNRWA and Israeli media reported that as many as 32 Palestinians, including passersby, were injured in violent clashes that broke out January 29 in al-Maghazi camp, one of the few areas won by Fatah during the election. The clashes were reportedly provoked by Hamas supporters who entered the camp chanting slogans. Shots were fired and both sides used IEDs, small arms, knives, rocks and clubs in their dispute until the fight was broken up community leaders, according to UNRWA.

-- Mortars/Rockets: According to the IDF, two mortar shells exploded January 29-30 at Netzer Hazani, but no injuries occurred.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported two shooting incidents, one near Rafah (see "death") and one near Khan Yunis January 29-31.

-- Explosive devices: According to the IDF, four explosive devices, none of which detonated, were discovered between January 29-31. Two of these were discovered near Sufa crossing, one at Kissufim and one at Atzmona.

16. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open January 29-31, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and diplomats, but closed for Palestinians January 29-31.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed January 29-31.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers January 31, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was closed January 29-31.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals January 29-31, but not departures.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed January 29-31. Toufah checkpoint was open for departures only for residents of al-Mowassi January 29-31.

18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- Israeli media reported that approximately 150,000 people demonstrated peacefully in Jerusalem January 30 against the PM Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan.

Visit Embassy Tel Aviv's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/telaviv>

You can also access this site through the State Department's Classified SIPRNET website.

KURTZER